



March 2003
Volume 11, Issue 1

FLEET FORUM

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHEAST SUNBELT REGION



The IMEAC Planning Committee is extending a special invitation to you and your agency to attend in special recognition for your past support and interest in GSA fleet events. This event promises to be the **LARGEST Federal FLEET EVENT** in 2003 by bringing together fleet professionals government-wide from all levels.



Benefits of Participating at IMEAC 2003

- ★ *The **LARGEST Federal FLEET EVENT** in 2003 by bringing together fleet managers government-wide from all levels.*
- ★ *Attendees will include Federal, State, and Local representatives of **LARGE AND SMALL VEHICLE FLEETS**, from all 50 states as well as South America, Puerto Rico, Canada, Europe, and Asia.*
- ★ *IMEAC provides an opportunity to **NETWORK, DISCUSS ISSUES AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES** for Federal fleet managers, procurement officials, vehicle operators, fuel providers and related vendors.*

If you have any questions about attending or exhibiting, please contact A-S-K Associates on the IMEAC helpline at 1-800-315-4333 or by email at: help@imeac.org. Our informational brochure is being developed and you will receive it soon. You can register online today at www.imeac.org. We look forward to seeing you in Portland! 🔑

Welcome to the latest edition of the Southeast Sunbelt Region's Fleet Forum. It is designed to provide information on upcoming events and items of interest to GSA Fleet customers.

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SPOTLIGHT on... Georgia/North Florida FMC

The Georgia Fleet Management Center (FMC) was established on April 30, 1956, in Atlanta, Georgia. It opened with 3 permanent employees and a fleet of 276 vehicles. On October 1, 2002, the boundaries for the Georgia FMC were realigned to more evenly distribute the number of vehicles between states. As of today, the Georgia/North Florida FMC has 5,567 vehicles and 708 customers. Our vehicle fleet includes approximately 2,132 sedans/passenger vehicles; 3,219 (4x2 and 4x4) light trucks; and 216 special purpose vehicles (medium/heavy trucks, buses, trailers, and ambulances). It is one of the largest FMC's in the nation. The main office is located at Ft. Gillem in Forest Park, Georgia. There are three other Fleet Offices located in Jacksonville, Fl., Warner Robins, Ga., and Ft. Stewart, Ga. The Georgia/North Florida FMC has 10 employees with 177 years of combined transportation experience. 🔑

Lynne Ridings
Management Support
Specialist
12 years Transportation
Experience

Jeffrey Sitton
FSR
22 years Transportation
Experience

Phil Snodgrass
FSR
3 years Transportation
Experience

Sandy Jones
Fleet Manager
28 years Transportation
Experience

Dave Harrelson
Senior FSR
37 years Transportation
Experience

Wes Allen
FSR
1 year Transportation
Experience

Renae Waldkirch
FSR
14 years Transportation
Experience

Bob Mills
FSR
27 years Transportation
Experience

Aaron Wilhite
FSR
18 years Transportation
Experience

Vivian Jones
Senior FSR
14 years Transportation
Experience



Fort Gillem FMC

Picture from Left to Right: Lynne Ridings, Jeff Sitton, Phil Snodgrass, Sandy Jones, Dave Harrelson, Wes Allen

Please share
this newsletter
with your
co-workers.



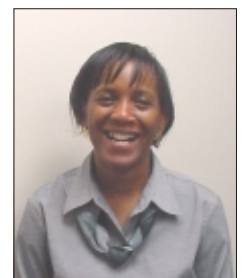
Jacksonville Fleet Office
Renae Waldkirch



Jacksonville Fleet Office
Bob Mills



Ft. Stewart Fleet Office
Aaron Wilhite



Robins AFB Fleet Office
Vivian Jones

You Are Invited!

GSA invites you to join us in San Antonio, Texas on May 6, 7 and 8th for our annual training extravaganza, EXPO 2003.

Expo 2003 is a dual Training Conference/Exposition designed for all levels of government personnel who impact procurement decisions.

Attend your choice of over 100 hours of the latest training in Professional Procurement, Winning Partnerships, Travel & Transportation, E-Business, and much, much more! You won't want to miss this FREE opportunity to help you keep pace with the changes that impact your agency. The Trade Show will showcase over 600 of GSA's commercial partners - across 300,000 square feet - each featuring a sampling of the wide range of products and services available through GSA.

For more information, visit the website at:

EXPO.GSA.GOV



GSA Advantage...

The Office of Marketing Web Portal Team is pleased to announce the launch of the new GSA web site at www.gsa.gov. They worked closely with the Office of Citizen Services and all the FSS business lines in order to provide our customers with an improved web site. We think our customers will appreciate the results.

While this is only the first step in redesigning the GSA Portal, we've already made tremendous improvements. What used to be clicks and clicks away is now available in

just one click. Customers can now connect to GSA Advantage! And get information about getting on or buying from a FSS Schedule directly from the GSA homepage. In addition, information and access to FSS's on-line applications like Auto Choice, e-Buy, GSA Auctions, and FEDS are available in just two clicks...from the home page click on the "buying through GSA" tab and then click on the hyperlink on the right side of the page.

We will continue to update and add value to the GSA Portal for our business lines and Federal customers.

Serving our customers has always been a priority for FSS. These changes make it easier and faster for our customers to access FSS information and electronic ordering systems.



Trivia... Automobile Fun Facts



- ▶ On average, 15,000,000 cars and trucks are manufactured and sold in the U.S. every year.
- ▶ 50,000,000 automobiles are produced annually worldwide.
- ▶ 30,000,000 used automobiles change hands every year. 🔑

Deciphering VIN's

One of the ways your FSR gets the data correct for your vehicle is by deciphering the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number). The VIN number tells them practically everything they need to know. The structure of a vehicle's VIN is well defined. Did you know that every character means something?

Any vehicle manufactured after 1981 should have 17 characters in it. Depending on the manufacturer, some digits change their meaning; however, some are consistent. They are:

Digit 1: Country of Origin
Digit 2: Manufacturer
Digit 3: Make
Digit 8: Engine Size
Digit 10: Model Year
Digit 11: Assy Plant

Model Year/ Digit 10

1	2001	L	1990
2	2002	M	1991
B	1981	N	1992
C	1982	P	1993
D	1983	R	1994
E	1984	S	1995
F	1985	T	1996
G	1986	V	1997
H	1987	W	1998
J	1988	X	1999
K	1989	Y	2000



Cell Phone Use Has Significantly Increased Fatal Crashes



BOSTON -- The number of fatal crashes caused by drivers talking on their cell phones is rising significantly, according to a study released Dec. 1, 2002, by Harvard University's Center for Risk Analysis (HCRA).

The self-funded study estimated 2,600 deaths occur each year in crashes caused by driver cell phone use.

The HCRA, which is part of the Harvard School of Public Health, also compared the financial benefits and costs of a legislative ban on cell phone use behind the wheel in non-emergency situations. The analysis concluded that

economic benefits of unrestricted cell phone use, worth approximately \$43 billion, are more or less offset by the potential cost savings of such a ban. The study found that benefits of a complete ban on cell phone use by drivers, including reduced medical costs, reduced property damage, and estimates of what people would pay to avoid pain, suffering, and death, would also be worth approximately \$43 billion.

Currently, New York is the only state in the country that prohibits hand-held cell phone use (New York drivers can use

cell phones with hands-free devices). New Jersey is considering a similar law, and some county and local governments enforce their own legislation on driver cell phone use.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is conducting a study on how cell phone use affects motorists. The NHTSA study is being performed at the National Advanced Driving Simulator at the University of Iowa. 🔑

GSA Vehicle Auctions For 2003

Consult <http://autoauctions.gsa.gov/> or 1-800-GSA-AUTO for up-to-date information.

It is time once again for GSA Fleet, Southeast Sunbelt Region to auction off vehicles to the public. With the exception of GSA Fleet employees, all Federal employees, their families, and friends can bid on these well-maintained, one-owner vehicles.

Auctions take place at seven commercial auction facilities throughout the southeast. These facilities and tentative auction dates are listed below. These are preliminary dates so be sure to call 1-800-GSA-AUTO to verify that the date has not changed. Auction dates, times, and places are subject to change.

Auctions allow time beforehand for vehicle inspection. Vehicles may be started but not moved. Cash, VISA/MasterCard/American Express/Discover, cashier's checks, and personal and business checks may make payment. A bank letter guaranteeing payment must



accompany all personal and business checks. Payment must be made in full on the day of the auction for every vehicle. Purchased vehicles must be removed on auction day. You will be given documents showing you own the vehicle that will allow you to register it with your state.

Bidders are advised to inspect vehicles carefully. Deficiencies, when known, will be listed in the auction catalog (provided at the auction facility) or will be announced prior to the sale starting. Vehicles may be withdrawn from the auction at any time. You must be 18 years of age to bid. There are additional provisions for warranties and refunds.

The tentative schedule for GSA vehicle auctions is as follows...

Aycock Auto Auction:

Sale at 3:00 p.m.
 Mar 13, Apr 10, May 22,
 Jun 12, Jul 17

Chattanooga Auto Auction:

Sale at 11:30 a.m.
 Mar 25, Apr 22, May 28,
 Jun 24, Jul 22

Gulf States Auto Auction:

Sale at 8:30 a.m.
 Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3,
 Jul 8

Louisville Auto Auction:

Sale at 12 noon
 Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27,
 Jun 24, Jul 29

Orlando Auto Auction:

Sale at 10:00 a.m.
 Apr 19, May 17, Jun 21,
 Jul 26

Rawls Auto Auction:

Sale at 9:30 a.m.
 Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20,
 Jun 17, Jul 15

Rea Brothers' Mid-South Auction:

Sale at 11:00 a.m.
 Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1, Jun 5

Trivia... Automobile Fun Facts



There are over 22,000 dealer organizations competing for the business of the American consumer. They are responsible for the sale of 15,000,000 new vehicles and over 10,000,000 used vehicles annually.

- ▶ Over 200 million cars are on our roads today.
- ▶ Over two-thirds of vehicle use is for chauffeuring and shopping.
- ▶ Half of all households own two or more automobiles.

**ATTENTION DOD
 CUSTOMERS**

SPEEDPAY

GSA Fleet and the Department of Defense's Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) recently joined forces in implementing SpeedPay, a new web-based electronic invoice payment program. SpeedPay is a DFAS program, accessed through GSA's Fleet Drive-Thru website. By using SpeedPay, DoD and GSA

expect to eliminate delayed and delinquent payments to GSA Fleet. SpeedPay is a menu driven program, solely for the use of the DoD customer or a DFAS representative.

In addition to knowing their Fleet Drive-Thru access codes, DoD users must know their line of accounting (LOA)

data to successfully complete SpeedPay transactions. SpeedPay contains an Excel datasheet listing DFAS points of contact for assistance with LOA information.

For more information on SpeedPay, please contact your local GSA Fleet Service Representative.

AMC Corner

Recovered Stolen Vehicles

The billing for vehicle damage on recovered stolen GSA vehicles can be confusing. Agencies normally ask why they should be billed for something they did not cause.

Vehicles that have been stolen and later recovered are no longer considered stolen. These vehicles are categorized by the Accident Management Center as vandalized vehicles.

The using agency will be billed for all vandalism damage unless a responsible third party can be identified. A provision under the Federal Management Regulation (FMR) does allow GSA to bill the agencies for vandalism damage. The FMR states, "GSA will charge the using agency all costs resulting from

damage, including vandalism, theft, and parking lot damage, to a GSA vehicle which occurs during the period that the vehicle is assigned or issued to that agency, to an employee of that agency, or to



the agency's authorized contractor.

Conversely, the using agency will not be billed for stolen vehicles never recovered,

unless the agency's negligence contributed to the loss. If the using agency is found to be negligent in the loss of the vehicle, the agency will be charged the current value of the vehicle. In the event the vehicle is recovered at a later date, the agency will be credited this amount, minus any costs to return the vehicle to service. If the vehicle is deemed a total loss and sold, the agency will be credited any profit resulting from the sale, minus any administrative costs relating to the sale.

Any questions surrounding this issue can be addressed to Penny Hargett, AMC Team Leader, at 1-800-608-2239 ext 54008.

MCC Corner

If you have a vehicle manufactured by DaimlerChrysler (Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep) and are experiencing transmission problems, it may be speed sensor related. The speed sensor sends a signal to the computer informing the

transmission when to shift. If your vehicle is model year 1999 or newer with less than 60,000 miles, it may be covered by a warranty from Daimler Chrysler. Please feel free to contact the MCC and we will be happy to direct you to the nearest authorized dealer.

The Maintenance Control Center (MCC) technicians can be contacted by phone:

phone: **1-888-622-6344**

fax: **404-608-2200**

We Are On The Move Again!

In an effort to move closer to our customer base, the following offices have relocated.

South Carolina/GA Coast FMC to Charleston, SC

SC/GA Coast FMC
Bldg 412, Rm 18 & 19
103 Sloan Street
Charleston AFB, SC 29404

These phone numbers will be effective March 10, 2003.

Ron Brooks, Manager
(843) 727-4047

JoAnn Abell, Sr. FSR
(843) 727-4045

Rick Baker, FSR
(843) 727-4044

Jose Vazquez, FSR
(843) 727-4043

Gulf Coast FMC to Hurlburt Field, FL

Gulf Coast FMC
125 Bennett Avenue
Building 90710
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544

These phone numbers will be effective April 18, 2003.

Jeff Burdo, Fleet Manager
(850) 581-2194

Steve McCracken, Sr. FSR
(850) 581-0973

Angie Huff, FSR
(850) 581-0217

The temporary phone number for Jeff Burdo and Steve McCracken is (850) 884-1398.

The following new Fleet offices have been established to better serve our customers:

Oak Ridge Fleet Office

200 Administration Road
Room G214
Oak Ridge, TN 37380

Tom Back, FSR
(865) 483-4335

Robins AFB Fleet Office

375 Perry Street
Building 255 (Room 6)
Robins AFB, GA 31098

Vivian Jones, Sr. FSR
(478) 328-1273

Jacksonville Fleet Office

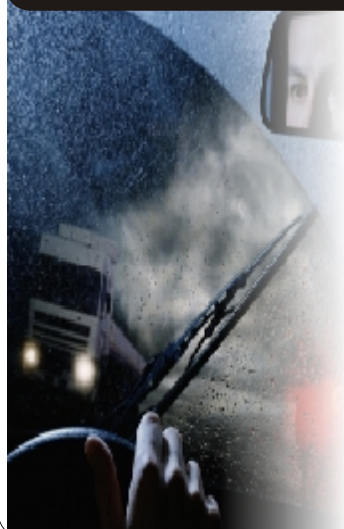
PMB-303
4495 -304 Roosevelt Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Bob Mills, FSR
(904) 542-1696

Did you know...

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, seat belts saved nearly 12,000 lives in the United States in the year 2000. The NHTSA estimates that more than 9,000 U.S. car accident fatalities in 2000 would have been avoided if the victims had been wearing belts. While seat belts do occasionally contribute to serious injury or death, nearly all safety experts agree that buckling up dramatically increases your chances of surviving an accident. According to the NHTSA, seat belts reduce the risk of death for a front seat car occupant by about 45 percent.

FYI. FYI. FYI. FYI. FYI. FYI. FYI. FYI. FYI. FYI.



How Do I Jumpstart A Battery Safely?

The steps to jumpstart a battery are...

1. Clamp a positive jumper cable (marked red or +) to positive (+) terminal of dead battery.
2. Clamp the other positive (+) jumper cable to positive (+) terminal of a good battery.
3. Clamp the negative cable (Marked black or -) to the negative (-) terminal of good battery.
4. Make the final connection (black or -) on the engine block of the stalled vehicle (not the negative post on the dead battery) away from the battery, carburetor, fuel line, tubing or moving parts. (Some engine blocks actually have a clamp plate for this purpose.)

Stand back from both vehicles. Start the vehicle with the good battery. Wait a few moments. Then start the disabled vehicle. Remove cables in the reverse order of how you connected them.

Accident Reports Gone Wrong (Grammatical Bloopers)

The following quotes are from the Toronto News and are actual statements from insurance forms where drivers attempted to briefly summarize the accident details . . .

Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.

The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions.

I thought my window was down, but found out it was up when I put my hand through it.

I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.

A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.

The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.

In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.

I told the police that I was not injured, but on removing my hat, I found that I had a skull fracture. 🔑

Car Maintenance Guide *Lighting System*

Statistics from AAA's Mobile Diagnostic Van Program indicate that nearly twenty percent of all vehicles tested are operating with one or more external lights not functioning.

Surprising? Not really. Lights are like tires and batteries in that they don't give us any warning when they are being neglected. Unlike tires and batteries, though, they may not cause any trouble when they finally fail. No trouble, that is, except that your vehicle is harder to see at night, your night driving vision may be impaired, and driving at night with any light out is illegal just about everywhere; even a burned out license light or side marker light can subject you to a traffic ticket!

Checking your vehicle's lights can be a simple process. Begin by walking around the car with the headlights turned on and checking each light to make sure it is lit. Don't overlook the license lights, parking lights and side marker lights.

Next, turn off the headlights then turn on your four-way

hazard flashers, and check all four corners again.

Since most all cars use the same bulbs for turn signals and hazard flashers, you have now checked the turn signal bulbs, as well. To be sure the turn signal flasher is OK, turn the ignition

"on" without starting the engine and check each turn signal once more, front and rear. Now, with the ignition still on and engine not running, make sure the parking brake is set firmly, then shift the transmission to reverse. If a helper is available, depress the brake pedal and have them look at the reverse lights and brake lights. If you don't have a helper, you can use a stick between the front seat and the brake pedal or a heavy object, such as a brick, to depress the brake pedal slightly while you



go back to check the brake and reverse lights. It normally takes only about an inch of pedal movement to turn on the brake lights.

If you find bulbs that need replacing, take your vehicle to a nearby service station for replacement.

Checking and maintaining your vehicle's lighting system regularly is easy and doesn't take much time. This maintenance can go a long way toward making your car safer and saving you the cost and hassle of an accident or traffic fine! 🔑